

DARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1117
Darlington, SC 29540

GRADES PK-12

ENROLLMENT 11,733 Students

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Rainey Knight 843-398-5200

BOARD CHAIR Dr. Thelma P. Dawson 843-393-1291

FISCAL AUTHORITY District Board

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

2003

ABSOLUTE RATING:

AVERAGE

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
0	5	12	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

BELOW AVERAGE

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

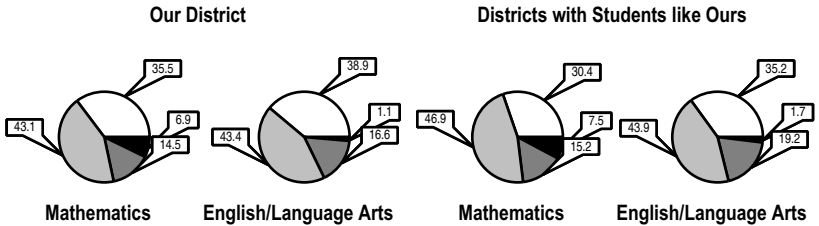
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

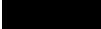



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PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Average	Average	N/A
2002	Average	Average	N/A
2003	Average	Below Average	N/A
2004			

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS**Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our District			Districts with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	66.4	60.0	57.7	65.1	65.1	65.2
Passed 2 subtests	17.8	19.4	20.1	18.0	17.9	18.3
Passed 1 subtest	10.2	13.6	12.6	10.3	11.0	9.5
Passed no subtests	5.6	7.1	7.4	6.7	6.0	6.3

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	9.2	12.5
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	9.2	12.7
Seniors who met the grade point average	49.6	47.6

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
English/Language Arts								
All students	5,619	99.0	38.9	43.4	16.6	1.1	17.7	17.6
Gender								
Male	2,876	98.8	45.0	41.2	13.4	0.4	13.8	17.6
Female	2,743	99.2	32.8	45.5	19.8	1.9	21.7	17.6
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,304	98.9	24.3	47.6	25.9	2.2	28.1	17.6
African-American	3,264	99.1	49.6	40.1	9.9	0.4	10.3	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	100.0	14.3	35.7	42.9	7.1	50.0	17.6
Hispanic	30	93.3	24.0	64.0	12.0		12.0	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	5	100.0						17.6
Disability Status								
Not disabled	4,578	99.5	34.0	45.0	19.6	1.4	21.0	17.6
Disabled	1,041	96.9	62.4	35.4	2.2		2.2	17.6
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	5,619	99.0	39.0	43.3	16.6	1.1	17.7	17.6
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	9	77.8						17.6
Non-limited English proficient	5,610	99.0	38.9	43.3	16.7	1.2	17.8	17.6
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	3,847	99.0	47.0	42.0	10.6	0.4	11.0	17.6
Full-pay meals	1,769	99.1	21.8	46.2	29.2	2.8	32.0	17.6

Mathematics								
All students	5,619	99.8	35.5	43.1	14.5	6.9	21.3	15.5
Gender								
Male	2,876	99.8	37.5	42.0	13.5	7.0	20.5	15.5
Female	2,743	99.9	33.4	44.3	15.5	6.8	22.3	15.5
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,304	99.7	20.7	44.6	22.2	12.5	34.7	15.5
African-American	3,264	99.9	46.2	42.1	9.0	2.7	11.7	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	100.0	7.1	42.9	7.1	42.9	50.0	15.5
Hispanic	30	100.0	29.6	40.7	18.5	11.1	29.6	15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	5	100.0						15.5
Disability Status								
Not disabled	4,578	100.0	29.1	45.9	16.9	8.1	25.0	15.5
Disabled	1,041	99.0	65.7	30.3	2.8	1.2	4.0	15.5
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						15.5
Non-migrant	5,619	99.8	35.5	43.2	14.5	6.9	21.3	15.5
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	9	100.0						15.5
Non-limited English proficient	5,610	99.8	35.5	43.1	14.5	6.9	21.4	15.5
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	3,847	99.8	43.7	43.3	10.1	2.9	13.0	15.5
Full-pay meals	1,769	99.8	18.1	42.8	23.8	15.3	39.1	15.5

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	926		31.0	41.6	25.4	2.0
	Grade 4	904		31.4	47.8	20.0	0.8
	Grade 5	909		40.4	46.6	12.8	0.2
	Grade 6	800		35.9	41.5	19.0	3.5
	Grade 7	963		43.0	42.4	13.4	1.2
	Grade 8	840		48.8	37.3	11.4	2.5
2003	Grade 3	905	98.6	23.3	45.8	28.3	2.5
	Grade 4	968	99.3	34.8	45.3	19.2	0.8
	Grade 5	974	99.3	45.6	43.9	10.4	0.1
	Grade 6	938	99.4	43.2	40.8	14.2	1.8
	Grade 7	900	99.0	43.0	41.8	14.2	1.0
	Grade 8	934	98.4	45.7	42.3	11.4	0.6
Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	926		37.0	38.8	13.8	10.3
	Grade 4	904		38.4	36.1	16.8	8.7
	Grade 5	909		47.2	38.2	11.5	3.2
	Grade 6	800		38.8	42.4	13.5	5.3
	Grade 7	963		58.6	25.1	10.7	5.6
	Grade 8	840		52.3	34.8	9.6	3.3
2003	Grade 3	905	100.0	22.9	47.5	19.2	10.4
	Grade 4	968	99.9	29.4	48.3	12.3	10.0
	Grade 5	974	99.9	36.8	43.4	14.9	4.9
	Grade 6	938	99.8	33.7	39.9	19.6	6.8
	Grade 7	900	99.6	44.7	36.8	12.1	6.4
	Grade 8	934	99.7	48.8	40.3	9.0	1.9

STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS

Terra Nova: a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

National Assessment of Educational Progress: a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percent of students scoring									
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	589	94.9%	587	9.2%	672	70.7%
Gender						
Male	285	95.1%	283	11.7%	335	66.0%
Female	301	94.7%	304	6.9%	337	75.4%
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	290	91.4%	305	3.0%	364	64.6%
Hispanic	5	80.0%	4	I/S	8	50.0%
White	290	98.6%	278	16.2%	299	78.9%
Other	1	I/S	0	N/A	1	I/S
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	29	82.8%	81	1.2%	101	69.3%
Students without disabilities	557	95.5%	506	10.5%	0	70.9%
Migrant Status						
Migrant	1	I/S	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	3	I/S	587	9.2%	0	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	1	I/S
Non-LEP	580	94.8%	587	9.2%	671	70.8%
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	231	90.9%	241	1.7%	320	70.0%
Full-pay meals	349	97.7%	346	14.5%	352	71.3%

* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	443	448	452	464	895	912
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	17.5	16.6	18.0	17.9	18.1	17.4	18.1	18.3	18.1	17.7
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

	2002	2003		2002	2003
Spaulding Junior High	Yes	Yes	Thornwell School	Yes	Yes
Lamar Elementary	Yes	Yes	West Hartsville Elem.	Yes	Yes
Brunson-Dargan Elementary	Yes	Yes			

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n= 11,733)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	0.1%	Down from 6.0%	4.3%	4.0%
Attendance rate	94.1%	Down from 96.0%	94.4%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	9.8%	Down from 10.6%	10.0%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	14.8%	Up from 14.6%	11.2%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	5.0%	Up from 4.2%	5.5%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	3.1%	Up from 1.8%	1.7%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	8.8%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	379	Up from 302	113	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	68	Down from 92	40	40

Teachers (n= 823)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	45.4%	Up from 43.4%	45.2%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	80.0%	Down from 80.3%	82.8%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	89.5%	Down from 89.7%	88.3%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	95.2%	Up from 94.6%	95.2%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$39,707	Up 1.8%	\$38,759	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	12.8 days	Down from 12.9 days	12.1 days	11.3 days

District				
Superintendent's years at district	4.0	Up from 3.0	4.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	19.8 to 1	Up from 18.6 to 1	20.4 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.6%	Down from 88.8%	88.7%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,245	Up 2.0%	\$7,581	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	55.3%	Up from 53.3%	55.3%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Down from Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	85.8%	Down from 99.0%	89.8%	96.1%
Number of schools	22	Up from 21	8	8
Number of magnet schools	3	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	1	Up from 0	0	0
Portable classrooms	11.1%	Up from 7.6%	2.7%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	40	N/A	25	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	21	N/A	8	8

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE**Board Membership**

8 trustees elected to single-member seats

Fiscal Authority

District Board

Average Number of Hours of Training Annually 320.0 per board member**Percent new trustees completing orientation** 100.0%**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Darlington County School District serves over 11,500 students in grades K-12. The district is made up of 22 schools, including a magnet high school for science and technology, an alternative school for grades 7-12, and two elementary magnet schools. The district also has two gifted and talented centers and two applied technology centers. All the schools in the district are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the South Carolina Department of Education.

We firmly believe that exceptional educators are the key to a student's success. Therefore, the district supports a comprehensive program of professional development for all school personnel and administrators. The district actively encourages teachers to apply for National Board Certification by providing guidance, classes, and a stipend. This year, sixteen teachers earned their National Board Certification.

Darlington County School District has a strong commitment to providing cutting edge technology in the classrooms. All of our schools are wired for the Internet, with several featuring wireless laptop computer labs. These labs afford teachers the opportunity to incorporate teacher-directed research and writing activities into the class.

Due to initiatives such as high priority on reducing truancy and creating Sonovista, the alternative school, the district's dropout rate has improved significantly. This contributed to Sonovista being named to the National Dropout Prevention Center's database of exemplary programs.

Other accomplishments in 2002-2003 include:

Three schools ~ Pate Elementary, North Hartsville Elementary, and Southside Early Childhood Center ~ were selected as Red Carpet Schools.

This year's seniors earned over \$6,000,000 in scholarships.

Carolina Elementary has been selected as a "School of Promise" by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Five district schools were recognized with Palmetto Gold or Silver Awards from the State Department of Education: Lamar High School, Cain Elementary, North Hartsville Elementary, Pate Elementary, and Washington Street Elementary.

DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal